

Interim police chief named

Doherty
previously headed
Wakefield dept.

By Matthew Nadler

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Town Manager Richard MacDonald announced during Monday night's selectmen's meeting the appointment of Stephen Doherty as interim police chief while the town searches for a permanent replacement for the departing Mark DeLuca.

Doherty, who was formerly the police chief in Wakefield, called his appointment "a wonderful opportunity to return to... direct law enforcement."

He said he hopes to "bring stable, unbiased management" to the department.

"The department has had its challenges in the past, as every department does," he noted.

A Watertown resident, he served on that police force for 16 years before taking charge in Wakefield in 1991.

Doherty was chief in Wakefield when Michael McDermott murdered seven co-workers at Edgewater Technology in 2000.

He left the Wakefield Police Department in 2003 to go into private consulting. He founded Doherty Partners LLC, which is described in an article on the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Web site as "a firm that provides critical incident prevention services." It also calls him an expert on workplace violence.

He told selectmen that he met with the department's three lieutenants last Friday in order to get an idea of their responsibilities and their perspective on the department. He called the trio "very professional."

He is on a six-month contract and will not apply for the permanent position.

POLICE DEPT.